



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



Symposium: 10 years of CESNI

Navigating the future of IWT

29 October 2025

Rotterdam, the Netherlands



Symposium: 10 years of CESNI

Navigating the future of IWT

Welcome (p.4)

About CESNI (p.5)

Programme (p.6)

Speakers (A-Z) (p.8)

Welcome

Under the auspices of the Dutch Presidency of the CCNR (2024-2025) and at the occasion of 10 years of the CESNI, **the Dutch delegation and the CESNI Secretariat are pleased to welcome you today to the symposium “10 years of CESNI”**, at the Wereldmuseum in Rotterdam (the Netherlands).

The **symposium (9.00-13.00)** will enjoy the active participation of leading figures from politics, administration, economy and research. The event will provide a unique opportunity to discuss the future prospects and challenges of European inland navigation and to emphasise the importance of cooperation between stakeholders.

Following the symposium in the Wereldmuseum, you are warmly invited to a **festive lunch on-site (13.00)**, followed by an **excursion in Rotterdam (14.00)**.

Michiel VAN KRUININGEN

*Director of Maritime Affairs at the
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water
Management*

*President of the Central Commission for
the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) and
head of the Dutch delegation*



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

Lucia LUIJTEN

*Executive Secretary of the European
Committee for drawing up Standards in
the field of Inland Navigation (CESNI)*

*Secretary General of the Central
Commission for the Navigation of the
Rhine (CCNR)*



About CESNI

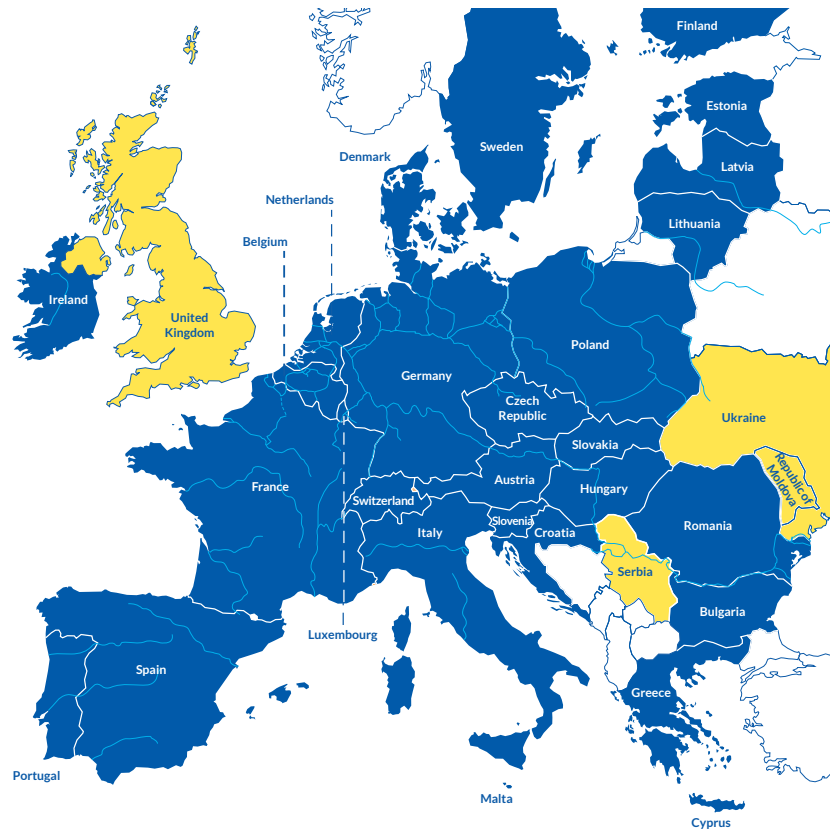
The **European Committee for drawing up Standards in the field of Inland Navigation (CESNI)** was set up in **June 2015** in order to adopt technical standards, in particular as regards **vessels, crew and information technology**. Its mission is to develop **uniform, modern and user-friendly requirements**.

The **regulations** at the **European and international level**, including those of the European Union and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), may refer to these standards.

The CESNI brings together the **Member States of the CCNR and of the European Union**, the European Commission, international organisations, including river commissions, approved non-governmental organisations, and Observer States.

28 Member States

4 Observer States



20 Approved organisations

Key publications



ES-TRIN - European Standard laying down Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation vessels



ES-QIN - European Standard for Qualifications in Inland Navigation



ES-RIS - European Standard for River Information Services

As well as: explanatory notices, models, guides and guidelines, FAQ, studies, associated websites...

Programme

Navigating the future of IWT

Moderator: Daisy Rycquart
Working language: English

9.00 Welcome with coffee

9.30 Introduction

Opening words

Michiel van Kruiningen, *Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Director of Maritime Affairs*

Fotini Ioannidou, *European Commission, DG MOVE, Director of Waterborne Transport*

CESNI: 10 years back, and 10 years ahead

Lucia Luijten, *Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Secretary General*

10.00 Part 1

Challenges for inland waterway transport (IWT) and waterway management

Future proof waterways

Martin Wijnen, *Rijkswaterstaat (RWS), Director General*

The inland shipping fleet of the future

Bart Kuipers, *Erasmus Centre for Urban, Port and Transport Economics, Port Economist*

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Part 2

International governance and cooperation

Beyond the Rhine: IWT in a broader European perspective

Manfred Seitz, *Secretariat of the Danube Commission, General Director*

Insights from governance research: levers for safe and clean inland waterway transport

Benjamin Hofmann, *ETH Zürich, Transdisciplinary Lab, Group Leader*

12.30 **Conclusion**

Closing words

Ivan Bilić-Prcić, *CESNI Chair, Croatian delegation*
Croatian Register of Shipping (CRS), Inland Navigation Division Manager

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 Excursion

Speakers (A-Z)

Ivan Bilić-Prcić

CESNI Chair, Croatian delegation

Croatian Register of Shipping (CRS), Inland Navigation Division Manager

Ivan Bilić-Prcić is a Naval Architect from Zagreb with more than 20 years of experience in inland navigation and in the maritime sector. He gained his experience as a Newbuilding Supervisor, Site Office Manager and Deputy Newbuilding Director in South Korea, the Philippines and China for two German shipping companies. Since 2011, he has been with CRS, where he currently serves as an Inland Navigation Division Manager. In recent years, he has chaired the CESNI/PT Working Group, the Group of European Recognized Classification societies for inland navigation (GERC) and the Group of recommended ADN Classification Societies. Since 2024 he chairs the CESNI Committee. Being in charge of technical safety and development of technical requirements, he is confident that European inland navigation has a bright future with many opportunities for further growth and development.



12.30

Closing words

Benjamin Hofmann

ETH Zürich, Transdisciplinary Lab, Group Leader

Benjamin Hofmann has 10 years of experience in environmental governance research. Since August 2025, he has been Group Leader at the Transdisciplinary Lab, Department of Environmental Systems Science, ETH Zürich, Switzerland. The lab seeks to strengthen science-society interfaces. Mr. Hofmann previously conducted research on evidence-informed decision-making at Eawag, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (2021-25), and on maritime shipping regulation at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland (2015-21). For his research, he was an observer in the Swiss delegation to the International Maritime Organization. Prior to that, he was a Carlo-Schmid fellow and Policy Officer at the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine in Strasbourg, France (2012-15). His work in inland navigation policy focused on sustainability and alternative fuels. Mr. Hofmann holds an MA in Political Science from the University of Salzburg, Austria, and a PhD in International Affairs from the University of St. Gallen.



11.30

Insights from governance research: levers for safe and clean inland waterway transport

Fotini Ioannidou

European Commission, DG MOVE, Director of Waterborne Transport

Fotini Ioannidou is Director of Waterborne Transport in the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission since June 2024. She has previously served as Acting Director of Waterborne since July 2023 and Head of the Maritime Safety Unit since January 2021. She joined the European Commission, the aviation directorate, in 1994. In 2009, she became Deputy Head of Unit of the policy and inter-institutional coordination unit in the Directorate General for Transport and Energy. She was appointed Head of Unit in 2012 and served as Head of the Human Resources Unit for the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport and the Directorate General for Energy up to 2016. She then worked as Head of the Road Safety Unit from 2017 to 2020. Her previous assignments in the Commission focused on transport and energy policy and inter-institutional coordination, as well as aviation safety and air traffic management. She studied electrical engineering in Greece, followed by postgraduate degrees in electronics and information systems in France. Before joining the Commission, she worked as telecommunications consultant in Paris for the CAP GEMINI group, including as project manager on EU-funded aviation research projects and as representative of the French administration to relevant ICAO working groups.



9.30

Opening words

Bart Kuipers

Erasmus Centre for Urban, Port and Transport Economics, Port Economist

Bart Kuipers is a Port Economist at the Erasmus Centre for Urban, Port and Transport Economics (Erasmus UPT) of Erasmus University Rotterdam. His first job was in the late 1980s at the Inland Navigation Department of Rijkswaterstaat (the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management). There, he laid the foundation for his deep interest in inland navigation. He analyzed policy measures for modal shift, innovation strategies, containerization, inland ports, the impact of smaller vessels, and the potential of the circular economy for inland navigation and inland ports. Bart Kuipers also conducts diverse research on the economics of seaports. He wrote a dissertation on the chemical industry in the Port of Rotterdam and has conducted extensive research on containerization. A significant part of his work involves designing future scenarios for seaports, inland shipping and inland ports, and the maritime industry. As an academic, he experienced decisive moments of insight aboard inland vessels.



10.00

The inland shipping fleet of the future

Michiel van Kruiningen

Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Director of Maritime Affairs

After completing his university studies in transport economics at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Michiel van Kruiningen began his career at the then Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. There, he held a number of policy advisory positions in the field of passenger and freight transport policy. Via a short secondment at the Lower House of the States-General as registrar of the permanent parliamentary committee, he worked for 18 years at the municipality of Rotterdam before starting in his current position (February 2023). At the municipality, he held a number of management positions in the fields of urban development, business operations and social development, among others. Michiel van Kruiningen is Director of Maritime Affairs at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and is responsible for inland shipping and waterways, shipping, sustainable shipping, seaports and multimodal goods transport and pipelines.



9.30
Opening words

Lucia Luijten

Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Secretary General

Lucia Luijten has more than 30 years of experience in the field of water management and inland navigation policy. Since November 2021, she is the Secretary General of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR). Mrs Luijten joined the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management in 2002 where she worked, until 30 September 2021, as Head of the inland navigation and navigable waterways department (since 2013). As Deputy Commissioner of the Dutch delegation, Lucia Luijten has played an active role in the work of the CCNR and CESNI since 2013. In particular, she chaired the CESNI in 2015 (first meeting) and 2018-2019. Previously, she worked at Rijkswaterstaat, the Dutch Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management. She holds a Master's degree in environmental sciences, specialising in wastewater technology, from the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands.



9.30
CESNI: 10 years back, and 10 years ahead

Daisy Rycquart

Fluminis, Moderator

Daisy Rycquart's roots in inland shipping go back a long way, from her parents to her grandparents and even before. Like more modern bargees' children, she didn't attend boarding school and grew up on land. There, she studied chemistry and environmental sciences. This proved to be the foundation for a policy role in the inland shipping industry. Here, she served as Director of the CITBO corporation and as Secretary of the Innovation & Greening committee at the EU IWT Platform. A job that primarily consists of connecting people. She now works more as a neutral sustainability consultant and pursues her passion as a moderator and spokesperson, where her energy for connecting is more than useful.



9.30-13.00
Moderation

Manfred Seitz

Danube Commission, General Director of the Secretariat

Manfred Seitz started his professional career in traffic and transport engineering and then moved to the Austrian Ministry for Science and Transport being in charge for the development and implementation of transport technology programmes. In 1999, he led the foundation of via donau, a subsidiary of the ministry serving as innovation centre for Danube transportation and transport telematics. In 2005, via donau became the Austrian national waterway organisation by merging infrastructure operation and all development activities. As managing director, Manfred Seitz was responsible for all matters of navigation and technology until the end of 2009. He initiated more than thirty projects in various EU programs and was a driving force for many national and European policy initiatives related to inland waterway transport (IWT). In 2011 he led the foundation of Pro Danube International (PDI) which is a network of private businesses promoting a more competitive Danube logistics system and the improvement of the Danube fairway. Since 1st of July 2019, Manfred Seitz holds the function of the General Director of the Secretariat of the Danube Commission which is an international organisation overlooking the regulations and rules for the navigation on the river Danube waterway and its navigable tributaries.



11.30

Beyond the Rhine: IWT in a broader European perspective

Martin Wijnen

Rijkswaterstaat (RWS), Director General

Martin Wijnen has been the Director General of Rijkswaterstaat since 1st January 2024, which is the executive organization for the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. Rijkswaterstaat has 10,000 employees and an annual turnover of approximately 6 billion euros. In his role as Director General, Martin Wijnen combines his experience of administrative processes and leading large implementation organizations with his knowledge of civil engineering. Martin Wijnen completed the Officer's Training Course and obtained his degree in Civil Engineering at the Royal Military Academy in the Netherlands. As an officer of the Dutch Army Corps of Engineers, he had operational and executive positions in the field of mobility, construction, and road and hydraulic engineering. He led several large military units in the Netherlands and abroad, and held top management positions in the Ministry of Defense. From 2017 to 2019, he occupied the position of Vice Chief of Defense, and from 2019 to 2024, the position of Commanding General of the Armed Forces. Previously he was also program manager at the National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism at the Ministry of Justice and Security. Martin Wijnen and Rijkswaterstaat want to accelerate and increase the renewal, renovation and maintenance of the rapidly aging Dutch primary infrastructure. He intends to achieve this with tight and clear management, targeted innovation, and cooperation with the entire chain of politics, policy, implementation and the market. He is also committed to increase resiliency of the infrastructure of the vulnerable Netherlands delta. In short, Martin Wijnen is dedicated to maintaining the high level of Rijkswaterstaat's daily operational work to keep the Netherlands safe, livable and accessible.



10.00

Future proof waterways

